

## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 512

By Ferguson

### A RESOLUTION urging Congress to establish and to fund a national elder abuse registry.

WHEREAS, the proportion of the United States population age sixty years or older will drastically increase in the next thirty years as more than 76,000,000 baby boomers approach retirement and old age; and

WHEREAS, elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation have no boundaries, and cross all racial, social class, gender, and geographic lines; and

WHEREAS, victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation are not only subject to injury from mistreatment and neglect, they are also 3.1 times more likely than elders who were not victims of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation to die at an earlier age than expected; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee established its own statewide elder abuse registry, which is used to track persons who have committed or have been convicted of adult abuse related offenses. Employers and health care providers can access this database when making any employment decisions; and

WHEREAS, it is of the utmost importance that everything possible is done to prevent the abuse of elders in this country, and a national registry which lists abusers will prevent them from being hired in future caregiving positions; and

WHEREAS, the Nurse Aide Registry, which will be implemented upon passage of S. 795 of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, is a similar example of national registries, and should be used as a basis for the establishment of an elder abuse registry; and

WHEREAS, all elements of society in the United States have a shared responsibility in responding to a national problem of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby urge Congress to establish and to fund a national elder abuse registry in an effort to decrease the number of cases of elder abuse in these United States.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution will be transmitted to the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, to each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation, and to Nancy-Ann DeParle, director of the White House Office for Health Reform.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.